Mr. C. V. Antony.—Will the Hon'ble Member point out the promise in the Council Proceedings?

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—If it is pointed out, may I know whether it will be followed?

Mr. C. V. Antony.—First of all I must see whether there is such a promise. Then only I can say whether I can act up to it or not.

License for temporary liquor shops.

65. **Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) how may licenses for opening temporary liquor shops have been given this year ;

(b) for what occasions and at what places these were granted ;

(c) what is the reason for granting them in spite of the fact that motions had been passed by the Legislative Council that no such licenses should be granted ;

(d) what is the amount realised from granting these shops ?

Mr. C. V. Antony.—(a) Thirty-six.

(b)	i	Harvest. Trichur	11
		do Mukundapuram	1
		do Kanayannur	2
	ii.	Cranganur Bharani	10
	iii.	Tirvilluamala Ekadesi	1
	iv.	Malayattur church festivals	2

(c) The special shops are allowed merely to safe-guard Governmentrevenue and to prevent illicit manufacture and illicit import of liquor from foreign countries as the occasions for which they are granted will clearly show. The number of shops granted this year is less than that of last year by 11, and these were granted in most cases after a personal inspection by the Excise Superintendent and after he was satisfied as to their necessity.

(d) Rs. 277—0—0.

Steps taken for absolute prohibition of drink.

66. **Mr. C. J. Mathew.** — Will the Government be pleased to state what effective steps have been taken in the year 1104 to reach the goal of 'Absolute prohibition' in the years to come ?

Mr. C. V. Antony.—Eleven toddy and 7 arrack shops were abolished in the year 1104. The duty on arrack was raised from Rs. 4-11-0 and Rs. 8-7-0 in 1103 to Rs. 5-0-0 and Rs. 8-12-0 respectively in 1104 in the Southern and Northern Taluks. The rate of

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tree-tax was raised from Rs. 3 and Rs. 6 to Rs. 3/8 and Rs. 7 per half year in the case of cocoanut and sago and from Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 per year in the case of palmyra. The number of special shops granted this year was only 36,11 less than the number for the last year. The field staff has been doing good work so far as prevention of crime is concerned and the number of abkari cases detected is 609 up-to-date, i. e., 30th June 1929, as compared with total number 632 last year. In addition to this whenever inconveniences are reported on account of the location of shops, they have been invariably ordered to be removed from public road-side, churches, etc., to less objectionable sites, thereby minimising the chances for drink.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—It is stated in the answer that the number of special shops granted this year is 36, that is, 11 less than the number for the last year. May I know whether the shops referred to were allowed under Temporary Licenses?

Mr. C. V. Antony.—Yes.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—With reference to the last portion of the answer, they have been invariably ordered to be removed from public roads, churches, etc., may I know how many such shops have been removed?

Mr. C. V. Antony.—Several have been removed. I do not remember the exact number.

Local Option.

67. **Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—(1) Will the Government be pleased to state after making necessary enquiries whether the Government of Travancore have accepted the principle of Local Option and taken steps to give effect to it in Changanacheri; and if so,

(2) (a) whether the Government of Cochin have also accepted this principle ;

(b) whether the Government have given sanction to introduce in the Legislative Council a Local Option Bill ; if not, why is it that the sanction has not yet been given ;

(3) whether orders will be passed either refusing or granting permission for introducing in the Legislative Council the Local Option Bill before the next Legislative Session, and if not, why not ; for how many years this matter has been pending the decision of the Government?

Mr. C. V. Antony.—(1) The Travancore Government are only trying local option as an experimental measure in Changanacheri. They have also fixed 2 drams of country spirits as the limit of private possession in Changanacheri.

(2) (a) Not so far.

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